

LINCOLN LOG CABIN  
STATE PARK

DRAWER 12

COLES COUNTY

71.2009.08C 05215



# Illinois

## Coles County

### Lincoln Log Cabin State Park

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

## Would Pres Lincoln's at Charleston

### BILL TO PURCHASE LINCOLN'S LAND

A bill to provide the sum of \$25,000 for the preservation of the Thomas Lincoln homestead and creation of a state park on the site of the homestead, nine miles southwest of Charleston, has been introduced in the state senate by Senator John R. Hamilton, of Mattoon.

Thomas Lincoln, father of the Civil War president, died in Coles county, near Charleston, and Abraham Lincoln, who inherited the property, resided there but a short time.

Thirty-four acres of land, part of the original homestead, is owned by a joint trustee of the Charleston Chamber of Commerce and Mattoon Association of Commerce. The remainder of the land is privately owned.

The movement taken up by Senator Hamilton is sponsored in Charleston by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

(Special to The Herald)

CHARLESTON, Jan. 24.—A bill to provide \$25,000 for the preservation of the Thomas Lincoln homestead and creation of a state park on the site of the homestead nine miles southwest of Charleston, was introduced in the state senate Wednesday by Senator John R. Hamilton of Mattoon.

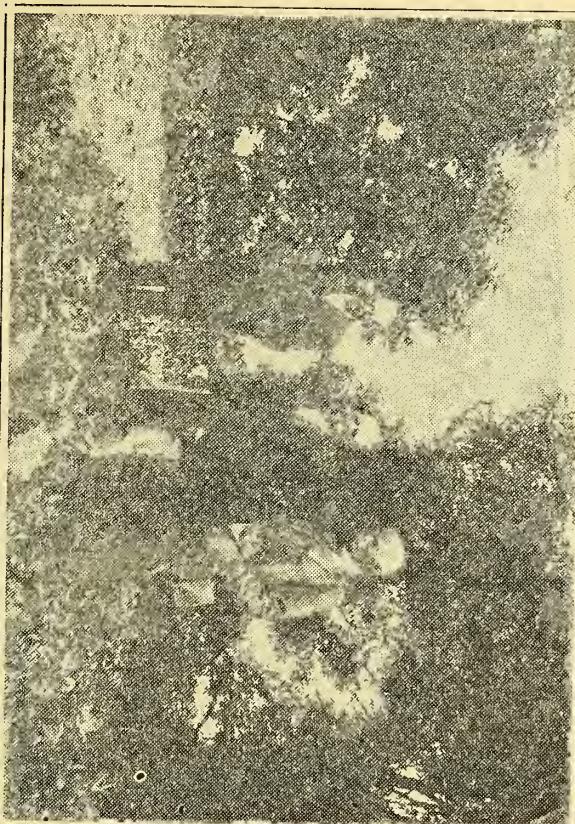
Thomas Lincoln, father of the Civil war president, died in Coles county and deeded the property to Abraham who lived there only a short time.

Thirty-four acres of land, part of the original homestead, is owned by a joint trust fund of the Charleston Chamber of Commerce and the Mattoon Association of Commerce. The remainder of the land is privately owned.

DECATUR ILL EVEN HER  
HURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 1924

CHARLESTON ILL COURIER  
HURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 1924

## STATE RECONSTRUCTS LINCOLN HOMESTEAD



Site of the Lincoln Log Cabin - August 12th, 1928. Left to right: Thomas

Allison, John Best and George T. Balch.

## PLAT OF THE LINCOLN REAL ESTATE

John D. Johnson and Mary,  
his wife

Thomas Lincoln

Thomas Lincoln

Thomas Lincoln and  
wife, Sarah

40 Acres

40 Acres

40 Acres

[5] Mortgage record omitted

[6]

Quick claim deed dated December  
31, 1840, filed Nov. 9, 1841, re-  
cord G, page 6, consideration \$50.  
Conveys the N. E. 1-4 of the S.  
E. 1-4 of Section 21, T. 11, N. R.  
9, East of the 3rd P. M., Coles  
county, Ill., containing 40 acres.

Quit claim deed dated Oct. 24th,  
1841, filed Nov. 9, 1841, record G  
page 5, consideration \$200, con-

## ABSTRACT TO LINCOLN LAND.

Reuben Moore and wife.

Mary,

[2] to

Thomas Lincoln

Warranty deed dated March 5th,  
1840, filed November 10th, 1841,  
record G, page 7, consideration  
\$400. Conveys the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of  
the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  and the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of  
the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 21, T. 11, N.  
R. 9, East of the 3rd P. M., Coles  
County, Ill., containing 80 acres.

Abraham 40.

The United States of  
America

[3] to

John D. Johnson

Entry certificate dated August  
4th, 1837, conveys the N. E. 1-4  
of the S. E. 1-4 of Section 21, T.  
11, N. R. 9, East of the 3rd P.  
M., Coles county, Ill., containing  
40 acres, as shown from the en-  
try book.

Abraham 40.

John D. Johnson and Mary,

to

John D. Johnson

[4] to

John D. Johnson

Thomas Lincoln

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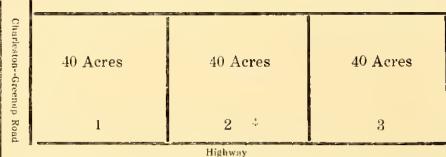
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# ABSTRACT TO LINCOLN LAND.



Site of the Lincoln Log Cabin August 12th, 1928. Left to right: Thomas Allison, John Best and George T. Balch.

## PLAT OF THE LINCOLN REAL ESTATE



The plat shows the 120 acres originally purchased by Thomas Lincoln of John D. Johnson and Reuben Moore who had entered the land in 1837 and 1839. This property in 1841 was deeded to Abraham Lincoln by Thomas Lincoln and wife, Sarah.

1 and 2-80 acres was deeded to John D. Johnson in 1851 by Abraham Lincoln and his wife, Mary, with the proviso that Sarah Bush Lincoln should be provided for during her life.

3-This 40 acres was never sold or disposed of in any manner by Abraham Lincoln, but John J. Hall, a second cousin, became the owner by un disputed possession for a period of over twenty years according to an affidavit filed by him May 7, 1888.

\*-Site of the Lincoln Log Cabin where Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Bush Lincoln died.

## ABSTRACT.

The following is an abstract of the title to the north half of the southeast quarter, containing 80 acres, and also the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter, containing 40 acres all in section twenty-one (21), township eleven (11) north, range nine (9) east of the third principal meridian, Coles county, Ill.

This is said to be the only piece of real estate President Lincoln ever owned outside of his Springfield residence.

The U. S. of America to Reuben Moore

Entry certificate dated May 21st, 1839, conveys the N. W. 1-4 of S. E. 1-4 containing 40 acres and also the N. E. 1-4 of the S. W. 1-4, containing 40 acres, all in Sec. 21, T. 11, N. R. 9, East of the 3rd P. M., Coles county, Ill. as shown from the entry book.

Reuben Moore and wife,

Mary,

[2] to Thomas Lincoln

Abraham 40.

The United States of

America

[3] to John D. Johnson

Abraham 40

John D. Johnson and Mary, his wife

[4] to Thomas Lincoln

[5] Mortgage record omitted

Thomas Lincoln and wife, Sarah

[6] to Abraham Lincoln

N. R. 9, E. of the 3rd P. M., Coles county, Ill., reserving the use and control of said land to the grantors and to the survivors of them during both and each of their natural lives.

Abraham Lincoln

[7] to John D. Johnson

Bond for a deed dated Oct. 25, 1841, filed Dec. 1, 1851, record page 48 recites: Whereas I have purchased of Thomas Lincoln and his wife, the N. E. 1-4 of the S. E. 1-4, of Sec. 21, T. 11, N. R. 9,

East of the 3rd P. M., Coles county, Ill. for which I paid the sum of \$200 and have taken their deed of conveyance for the same with the reservation of a life estate therein to them and the survivors of them. Now I bind myself, my heirs and assigns to convey said tract of land to John D. Johnson or his heirs, at any time after the death of the survivors of the said Thomas Lincoln and wife, provided he shall pay me, my heirs or assigns, the sum of \$200 at any time within one year after the death of the survivors of said Thomas Lincoln and wife, and the same may be paid without interest, excepting after the death of the survivors as aforesaid.

Witness my hand and seal, this the 25th day of October, A. D. 1841.

A. LINCOLN.

[8] and [9] No record of death on file or of administration of estate of Thomas Lincoln.

Abraham Lincoln and wife,

Mary

[10] to John D. Johnson

Quit claim deed dated Aug. 12th, 1851, filed Sept. 4th, 1851, record O, page 215, consideration \$1.00 conveys all interest in the N. W. 1-4 of the S. E. 1-4 and the N. E. 1-4 of the S. W. 1-4 of Section 21, T. 11, N. R. 9, E. of the 3rd P. M., Coles county, Ill., subject

to the dower interest of Sarah Lincoln, widow of Thomas Lincoln, deceased. Grantors convey their interest derived as sole heirs of Thomas Lincoln, deceased.

John D. Johnson and wife Nancy [11] to John J. Hall Quit claim deed dated Nov. 27, 1851, filed Jan. 14, 1853, record Q, page 122, consideration \$250. Conveys all interest in the N. W. 1-4, of the S. E. 1-4, and the N. E. 1-4, of the S. W. 1-4, of Sec. 21, T. 11, N. R. 9, E. of the 3rd P. M., Coles county, Ill., containing 80 acre.

[12] and [13] Mortgage and release.

Jno. J. Hall, single, [14] to Abraham Lincoln Log Cabin Association Warranty deed dated August 15, 1891, filed Aug. 22, 1891, record 83, page 460, consideration \$200. Conveys a part of the N. W. 1-4 of S. E. 1-4 of Section 21, T. 11, N. R. 9 E. of 3rd P. M., Coles county, Ill., beginning at the N. E. corner of S. E. 1-4 of S. E. 1-4 of Sec. 21, T. 11, N. R. 9 E. of 3rd P. M., thence S. 84 degrees, 30 minutes, W. 1646 feet, thence N. 1 degree 55 minutes, W. 190 feet to point of beginning, thence N. 55 degrees, 5 minutes E. 163 feet, thence N. 76 degrees, 45 minutes, W. 102 ft, thence S. 83 degrees, W. 112 ft, thence S 9 degrees, E. 113 ft, thence N 85 degrees, 30 minutes, E. 57 ft. to place of beginning, containing 36-100 of an acre, said real estate conveyed as Memorial Grounds on which the Lincoln cabin stood, grantees to keep said premises fenced.

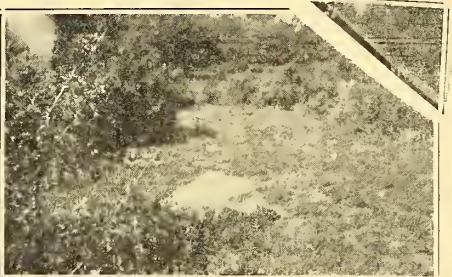
James W. Craig [15] to The Abraham Lincoln Log Cabin Association Warranty deed dated Jan. 12, 1892, filed Jan. 14th, 1892, record 84, page 361 consideration \$10,000 Conveys a part of the S. E. 1-4 of Sec. 21, T. 11, N. R. 9, E. 3rd P. M., Coles county, Ill. Deed recites; The Log Cabin or house conveyed to me, the grantor by deed of John J. Hall, which deed was dated the 8th day of May, 1891 and the said cabin at that time was situated on Sec. 21, T. 11, N. R. 9, E. 3rd P. M. Coles county, Ill.

The Abraham Log Cabin Association [16] to M. E. Dunlap Warranty deed dated January 18, 1892, filed Feb. 24, 1892, record 85, page 10, consideration \$1,000; conveys a part of N. W. 1-4 of S. E. 1-4 of Section 21, T. 11, N. R. 9, E. of 3rd P. M., Coles county, Ill., beginning at N. E. corner of S. E. 1-4 of S. E. 1-4 of Sec. 21, T. 11, N. R. 9, E. 3rd P. M., Coles county, Ill., thence degrees, etc., as described heretofore.

#### Portion of Abstract to the Thomas Lincoln Farm One-Half Mile South of Lerna, Illinois

John D. Johnston to Thomas Lincoln Warranty deed dated March 14, 1834, filed May 19, 1834, deed recorded "A" page 304, consideration \$75, conveys the N. W. 1/4 of the S. W. 1/4 of Sec. 10, T. 11 N. R. 8, East of the 3rd P. M.

Thomas Lincoln and Sarah, his wife, to Alexander Montgomery Warranty deed dated May 3, 1837, filed August 18, 1843, deed recorded "H" page 116, consideration \$140, conveys the N. W. 1/4 of the S. W. 1/4 of Sec. 10, T. 11 N. R. 8 E. of the 3rd P. M. containing 40 acres.



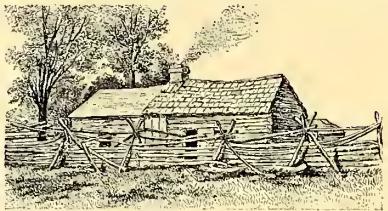
Buck Grove, now owned by C. W. Staphenson, where Thomas Lincoln settled and erected a Log Cabin in 1831.



Site of Log Cabin built in 1834, on 40 acres purchased by Thomas Lincoln now owned by J. Will Walker, one-half mile south of Lerna, Ill.



The Plummer place three miles southwest of Lerna, where Thomas Lincoln lived until he moved to Farmington in 1837, now owned by Frank Hill.



The Lincoln Log Cabin as it appeared before being torn down by the Lincoln Log Cabin Association.



Residence in Farmington, Ill., in which Lincoln ate his last meal with his step-mother, early in February, 1861, a few days before his departure for Washington to be inaugurated President of the United States.



Mrs. Sarah Beam, 88, Janesville, Ill., lived one-fourth mile from the Lincoln home, and was well acquainted with both Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Bush Lincoln.

## ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Shelby County Leader, Feb. 7, 1929.

"Now he belongs to the ages," muttered Secretary Stanton, when the great spirit of Abraham Lincoln had left its earthly abode. Probably the speaker, himself, even in that moment of prophetic insight failed to realize the great truth in these simple words.

Today a statue of Abraham Lincoln occupies a prominent place before the House of Parliament in England. One of the greatest and most successful plays of recent times was written by an Englishman John Drinkwater—and devoted exclusively to certain phases of Abraham Lincoln's career. Spanish thinkers, French historians, German scholars and intellectual leaders everywhere unite today in venerating Lincoln as one of the finest characters and one of the ablest men who ever trod the face of the earth.

Several thousand books have been written devoted to his career, and yet within the past two years two new, great Lincoln biographies have appeared and met with generous popular response. The American schoolboy has Lincoln set before him as an example from the time when he first begins to read. The Chinese or Hindu scholar studies the emancipator's career and finds it a great source of inspiration.

How may we account for the vastness of this fame—the growth of this Lincoln legend, if one would so term it? His rise from a humble log cabin in the prairie to the white house may account for it in part. But there have been many other similar careers in our country and in other lands. His humanitarian and tolerant attitude toward the suffering and errors of common people accounts for it still more. But that is not the whole story either. The character of Lincoln is loved by ordinary folks everywhere, but the ability and power of this same man is respected by statesmen.

He put his bitter political opponents in his cabinet, because of his high regard for their ability. He heeded their advice in all matters and then decided everything for himself. He hated war, but he led his nation into war for the preservation of a principle. He fought the seceding states vigorously, but never exhibited anything but kindness and sympathy toward Southern people in their hour of trial and trouble.

Lincoln never compromised with what he regarded as a great principle for the sake of temporary advantage. He was always sympathetic toward the weak and afflicted, but powerful to the strong and arrogant. He was both a kindly man and a heroic figure—a rare combination in the entire history of the world.

The Lincoln legend may well be preserved, and even embellished for succeeding generations, for nowhere may there be found a better ideal of statesmanship.

70TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

H. R. 16308

### House of Representatives

JANUARY 16, 1929

Mr. Atkins introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Roads and ordered to be printed

### A BILL

To provide for a survey of a route for the construction of a highway connecting certain places associated with the life of Abraham Lincoln.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there is hereby established the Lincoln Memorial Highway Commission, which shall consist of the Secretary of War, who shall be chairman of such commission, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Secretary of the Treasury.

Sec. 2. Such commission shall be authorized and directed to cause a survey to be made with the view to the establishment of a national highway connecting State highway routes numbered 25 and 130, and the city of Charleston, Illinois, with the city of Farmington, Illinois, and which shall pass through Shiloh Center, and other places in Cole County, Illinois, historically connected with the life of Abraham Lincoln in Illinois prior to his assuming the duties of the presidency.

Sec. 3. Such commission shall report to Congress, as soon as practicable, the

results of its survey, and submit its recommendations as to the route to be followed in the construction of such highway, which existing roads, if any, may be incorporated into, or utilized as a part of such highway, and what places are available and suitable for the erection of markers commemorating Abraham Lincoln's connection with the place proposed to be marked, and such other recommendations as to the route and construction of such highway as it deems proper, together with an estimate of the probable cost of such highway.

Sec. 4. Every officer or employee of the United States may supply the commission with such information, relating to any route under investigation, as may be required, and as contained in the records of the office of such officer or employee, as the commission may request. In administering this Act the commission is authorized to make use, so far as is consistent with the best interest of the public service, of agencies, officers and employees of the executive branch of the Government.

Sec. 5. The commission may appoint and fix the compensation of such employees, without regard to the civil service rules or to the Classification Act of 1923, and may make all expenditures, including expenditures for actual removals, for the use of the commission, and to the Subsistence Expense Act of 1928, for personal services at the seat of government and for the use of the commission in the discharge of its functions under this Act. All the expenses of the commission, including the salaries of the members, shall be paid by the United States, and the presentation of itemized vouchers therefor approved by the chairman of the commission.

Sec. 6. The amount so authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.



The plat shows the 120 acres originally purchased by Thomas Lincoln of John D. Johnson and Reuben Moore who had entered the land in 1837 and 1839. This property in 1841 was deeded to Abraham Lincoln by Thomas Lincoln and wife, Sarah.

1 and 2—80 acres was deeded to John D. Johnson in 1851 by Abraham Lincoln and his wife, Mary, with the proviso that Sarah Bush Lincoln should be provided for during her life.

3—This 40 acres was never sold or disposed of in any manner by Abraham Lincoln, but John J. Hall, a second cousin, became the owner by disputed possession for a period of over twenty years according to an affidavit filed by him May 7, 1888.

\*—Site of the Lincoln Log Cabin where Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Bush Lincoln died.

## ABSTRACT.

The following is an abstract of the title to the north half of the southeast quarter, containing 80 acres, and also the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter, containing 40 acres all in section twenty-one (21), township eleven (11) north, range nine (9) east of the third principal meridian, Coles county, Ill.

This is said to be the only piece of real estate President Lincoln ever owned outside of his Springfield residence.

Entry certificate dated May 21st,

The U. S. of S. E. 1-4 of S. E. 1-4 containing 40 acres and

America also the N. E. 1-4 of the S. W.

[1] to 1-4, containing 40 acres, all in

Sec. 21, T. 11, N. R. 9, East of the 3rd P. M., Coles county, Ill. as shown from the entry book.

N. R. 9. E. of the 3rd P. M., Coles county, Ill., reserving the use and control of said land to the grantors and to the survivors of them during both and each of their natural lives.

Bond for a deed dated Oct. 25, 1841, filed Dec. 1, 1851, record [7] page 48 recites: Whereas I have purchased of Thomas Lincoln and his wife, the N. E. 1-4 of the S. E. 1-4, of Sec. 21, T. 11, N. R. 9,

East of the 3rd P. M., Coles county, Ill. for which I paid the sum of \$200 and have taken their deed of conveyance for the same with the reservation of a life estate therein to them and the survivors of them. Now I bind myself, my heirs and assigns to convey said tract of land to John D. Johnson or his heirs at any time after the death of the survivors of the said Thomas Lincoln and wife, provided he shall pay me, my heirs or assigns, the sum of \$200 at any time within one year after the death of the survivors of said Thomas Lincoln and wife, and the same may be paid without interest, excepting after the death of the survivors as aforesaid.

Witness my hand and seal, this the 25th day of October, A. D. 1841,

A. LINCOLN.

[8] and [9] No record of death on file or of administration of estate of Thomas Lincoln.

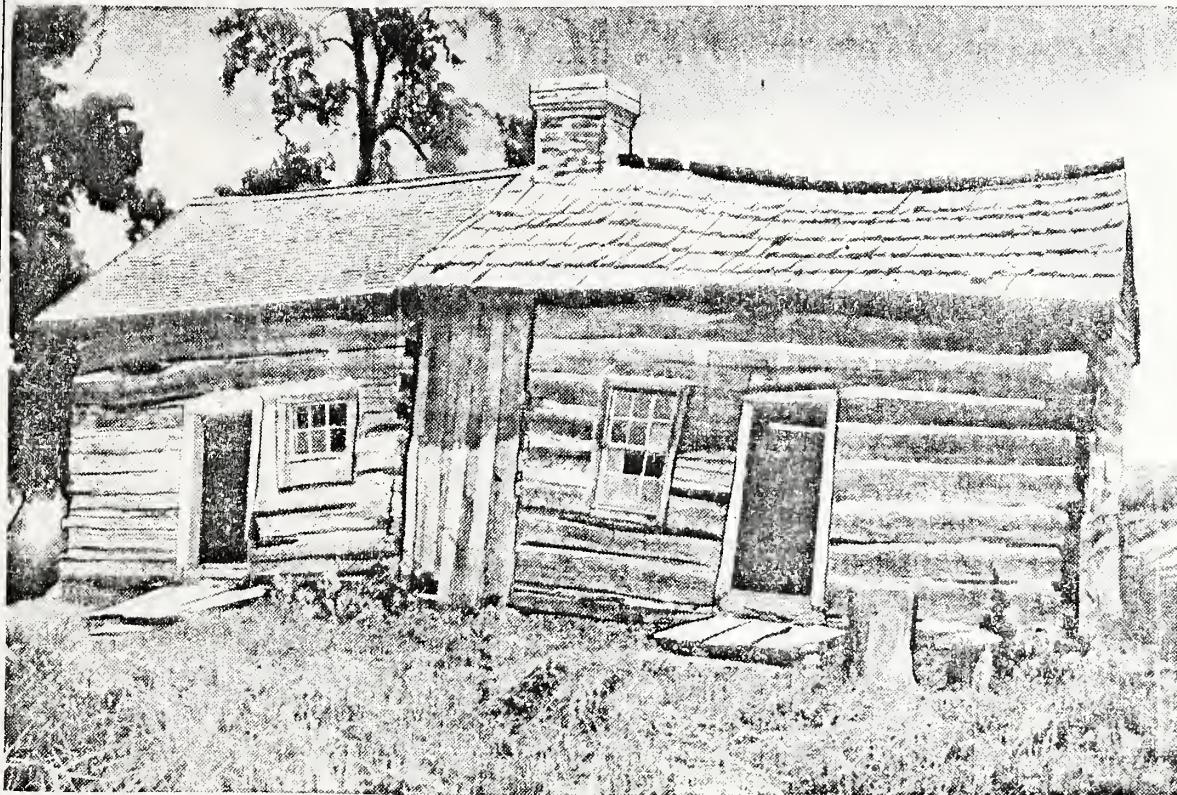
Abraham Lincoln and wife,

Quit claim deed dated Aug. 12th, 1851, filed Sept. 4th, 1851, record

[10] to O, page 215, consideration \$1.00 conveys all interest in the N. W.

Reuben Moore 1-4 of the S. E. 1-4 and the N. E. 1-4 of the S. W. 1-4 of Section 21, T. 11, N. R. 9, E. of the 3rd P. M., Coles county, Ill., subject

## STATE RECONSTRUCTS LINCOLN HOMESTEAD



CHARLESTON, ILL.—Abraham Lincoln's early Illinois home, situated on the old Lincoln farm of eighty-six acres in Coles county, which is being brought back to the condition of the '40s of the last century by the state and federal government under the personal supervision of T. M. Kingsbury, CCC superintendent and a veteran of the national park service.

## LINCOLN CABIN BEING REBUILT AT FARMINGTON

Federal Government and State Join in Reconstructing Old Homestead.

BY GUY HOUSLEY.

Special Dispatch from a Staff Correspondent.  
Farmington, Ill., May 7.—One mile south of here in the midst of a worn-out farm the state and federal governments are reconstructing the Lincoln homestead. The work, supervised by Robert G. Kingery, state director of public works and buildings, is under personal supervision of T. M. Kingsbury, CCC superintendent and a veteran of the national park service.

Mr. Kingsbury is admirably fitted for the job, as he is the grandson of an early day circuit rider and acquainted with the living conditions of the homesteaders of last

century. He has been given the old Lincoln farm of eighty-six acres to bring it back to the condition of the '40s of the last century.

Coles county, where the farm is located, is teeming with Lincoln lore and it is the burial place of the martyred president's father, Thomas, and his stepmother, Sarah.

### Graves in Quaint Churchyard.

The graves of the two pioneers are two miles northwest of the homesite in a quaint old churchyard. In Farmington, too, is being reconstructed the town house in which Lincoln held a reception with his stepmother after he had ascended to the presidency.

The Lincoln homestead marks one of the steps of Lincoln west from his birthplace in Kentucky. With his father and stepmother, Lincoln, a gangling youth of 17 years, came to Illinois from Indiana.

Father Lincoln took up land one and one-half miles west of the Embarrass river and immediately began building a log cabin from the trees they cleared off the eighty-six-acre farm. The cabin was located on a slight rise on the east edge of the farm to be convenient to the grist mill which had been established on the river.

The homesite was wooded and at the foot of the little incline murmured a sparkling brook. The trees long since, of course, have been removed and the land looks arid.

### Interviews Old Settlers.

However, with his long park experience and early day memories,

Mr. Kingsbury has undertaken to reconstruct the homestead faithfully. First he went on a scouting expedition and found several old settlers that had been in the original Lincoln cabin. Next he obtained authentic photographs of it and gleaned from the old residents the nature of the farm when it flourished under the Lincoln regime and during the succeeding years.

As a result, he gathered several thousand trees, donated by neighbors or grubbed from marshy terrain. Next he began rebuilding at the

as intact on the as 1892. At was taken down, each and hand split shingle carefully and shipped to, to be re-erected in the ambian exposition. However, according to the story current at that period, Robert Lincoln, eldest son of the martyred president, objected, and the cabin lumber was placed in a warehouse. Later the warehouse and its contents were destroyed by fire.

### Big Fireplace Erected.

However, the history of the cabin building, its size and its contents are well known. When the Lincolns first drew their covered wagon on the knoll Father Lincoln and his gangling son began felling logs and erected a 16 by 18 foot log cabin, with a big fireplace on the east end.

They moved in and found the quarters a little cramped. As a result, about five feet east of the east

wall father and son built an addition, a 13 by 16 foot log room, and doubled the fireplace. The space between the two cabins was planked up and used as storage closets.

The homestead, in being made into a shrine, will typify the rural life of the Lincoln boyhood. The town house will reconstruct the community life of that period.

The Lincoln homestead is on the Lincoln Memorial highway, which stretches from Kentucky across Indiana and into Illinois. This highway is being graded and built of concrete. But to reach the homestead now is pretty much of a trip of discovery to the average city driver.

From Chicago the most direct is U. S. 45 to Mattoon, thence east on Illinois 16 to Charleston and south over dirt roads to the homestead, a distance of some 200 miles.

# STATE SHRINE IS THROWN OPEN TO PUBLIC

## Addresses Are Given by Gov. Horner and Edward C. Craig

On the ground that Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln, father and step-mother of Abraham Lincoln, and even the Great Emancipator walked nearly a century ago, the Lincoln Log Cabin State Park, located about 15 miles southeast of this city, was dedicated with impressive ceremonies this afternoon.

Hundreds of Lincoln students from all parts of Illinois and nearby states flocked to the park for the dedication. The crowd in attendance was estimated at several thousand.

### Principal Speakers.

Gov. Henry Horner, a noted student of Lincoln, gave the dedicatory address. Other speeches appropriate to the occasion were given by Edward C. Craig of Chicago and Patrick Barrett of Chicago, known as "Uncle Ezra."

The park is an 88-acre tract acquired for park purposes in 1923. The most interesting part of the whole park is the two-room cabin erected on the site of the old Thomas Lincoln home. The cabin is an exact replica of the cabin erected by Thomas Lincoln and in which he and his wife, Sarah Bush Lincoln, lived.

Funds for creation of this new Lincoln shrine were furnished by the federal government. The CCC units did the construction work, which started two years ago.

The restored cabin and the entire grounds were inspected by the many visitors today. Quite a number of antiques appropriate for showing in connection with the log cabin and farm restoration, tendered through the National Park Service and other organizations, were placed in the cabin to make a visit even more interesting.

### On Mr. Craig's Private Car.

Gov. Horner, Mr. Craig and Mr. Barrett arrived in Mattoon at 12:45 o'clock this afternoon from Chicago in Mr. Craig's private car on Illinois Central train No. 1 and were met by a local reception committee.

After a short stay in this city they were taken by automobile to the scene of the dedication. Gov. Horner joined Mr. Craig and Mr. Barrett in Chicago this morning upon his arrival from New York, where he attended a political conference Wednesday.

### Wreath on Graves.

During the ceremonies this afternoon the members of the Kiwanis Club of Charleston placed a floral wreath on the graves of Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln in Shiloh cemetery, which is not far distant from the park.

Benjamin Weir of Charleston, publisher of the Charleston Courier, presided over the dedication program as chairman. He introduced the speakers after a short introductory speech. The speaking program was preceded by a band concert. Rev. Horace Batchelor of Mattoon gave the invocation.

### Address of Chairman Weir.

In his introductory speech, Mr. Weir said:

"We hear much of the character  
(Continued on page seven.)

## Speaker



Edward C. Craig of Chicago, a former resident of Mattoon, who was one of the main speakers at the dedication of the Lincoln Log Cabin State Park, southeast of Lerna, this afternoon. Mr. Craig is general counsel of the Illinois Central railroad.

## ADDRESS MADE BY E. C. CRAIG AT DEDICATION

### Former Mattoon Man Tells of Appreciation of Coles Co.

Edward C. Craig of Chicago, general counsel of the Illinois Central railroad, one of the principal speakers at today's dedication of the Lincoln Log Cabin State Park, southeast of this city, spoke on the subject, "Appreciation of Coles County and Community." The address of Mr. Craig, who is a former resident of this city, was as follows:

"Mr. Chairman, Governor Horner, Ladies and Gentlemen:

"I have been asked to express to the representatives of the federal and state governments the appreciation of this part of the state for the restoration of the Lincoln log cabin, in the original building of which President Lincoln, when a young man, is said to have participated, and in which his father and Sarah Bush Lincoln, his step-mother, lived and died.

"This privilege comes to me because my family is a pioneer family and has been for six generations identified with this part of the state, my great grandfather having come here from Kentucky in 1829, one year before the Lincoln family migrated to Illinois. I am also a member of the law department of the Illinois Central Railroad Company, for which company Mr. Lincoln was attorney many years, and for which company he tried and won, among other cases, one of the most important law suits the company ever had, in which case he was paid his largest fee. One of the cherished traditions of the Illinois Central is that Abraham Lincoln was, when practicing law in Illinois, a member of its legal staff. To have been employed by the company at that time no doubt meant something to Mr. Lincoln. That he was then employed by it, now means much to the Illinois Central.

### Debt of Gratitude.

"I rejoice with you that the federal and state governments have generously made it possible for us to have this shrine of Lincoln. Central Illinois acknowledges its debt of gratitude therefor to the United States and to the state of Illinois. To Governor Horner, a great student of Abraham Lincoln and a

(Continued on page three.)

# STATE SHRINE IS THROWN OPEN TO PUBLIC

(Continued from page one.)

and life of Thomas Lincoln. Most of it is not always complimentary to him. But I wonder if we do not often lose our perspective when we appraise his life and all too greatly emphasize his weaknesses.

"We should remember that he was the product of a past century and a pioneer who was buffeted by hardships of which we know little or nothing.

"Records indicate he was a man of some means and standing in Kentucky who became discouraged by the absolute lack of security in land titles, and largely because of that moved to Indiana, where for 14 years he struggled to make a home and a living for his family. There he lost his wife—Abraham Lincoln's mother—in October, 1818, when the young Lincoln was somewhat less than ten years of age. About 14 months later Thomas Lincoln returned to Kentucky and married Sarah Bush Johnson.

"In 1830 they migrated to Illinois, making their first home in Macon county. Poor crops and bad health conditions there led the family to start back to Indiana, but on the way they changed their plans and stopped in Coles county. First they built a cabin at Buck Grove, two miles west of Lerna, in 1831; in 1834, they built a second cabin one-half mile south of Lerna, and in 1837 they moved to this site and erected one room of the cabin, the replica of which you see before you.

"When Thomas Lincoln settled here he was no longer a young man; he was practically 60, and in those days a man of 60 was recognized as an old man, and not much was expected of him. I want to emphasize that Thomas Lincoln was a man of much greater force of character and ability than he is generally given credit for.

"It is, therefore, certainly fitting that this great state should thus recognize the large contribution Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Bush Lincoln, who became a real mother to Young Abraham Lincoln, have made to the history of this country and to civilization and freedom. Their lives, their character, their integrity and loyalty to family and national life were factors in molding the character of the great martyr President."

*Mr. Henry Horner, Mr. C.  
Edgar M. Malam, Ill*

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 1936

# STATE SHRINE IS THROWN OPEN TO PUBLIC

## Addresses Are Given by Gov. Horner and Edward C. Craig

On the ground that Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln, father and step-mother of Abraham Lincoln, and even the Great Emancipator walked nearly a century ago, the Lincoln Log Cabin State Park, located about 15 miles southeast of this city, was dedicated with impressive ceremonies this afternoon.

Hundreds of Lincoln students from all parts of Illinois and nearby states flocked to the park for the dedication. The crowd in attendance was estimated at several thousand.

### Principal Speakers.

Gov. Henry Horner, a noted student of Lincoln, gave the dedicatory address. Other speeches appropriate to the occasion were given by Edward C. Craig of Chicago and Patrick Barrett of Chicago, known as "Uncle Ezra."

The park is an 86-acre tract acquired for park purposes in 1928. The most interesting part of the whole park is the two-room cabin erected on the site of the old Thomas Lincoln home. The cabin is an exact replica of the cabin erected by Thomas Lincoln and in which he and his wife, Sarah Bush Lincoln, lived.

Funds for creation of this new Lincoln shrine were furnished by the federal government. The CCC units did the construction work, which started two years ago.

The restored cabin and the entire grounds were inspected by the many visitors today. Quite a number of antiques appropriate for showing in connection with the log cabin and farm restoration, tendered through the National Park Service and other organizations, were placed in the cabin to make a visit even more interesting.

On Mr. Craig's Private Car. Gov. Horner, Mr. Craig and Mr. Barrett arrived in Mattoon at 12:45 o'clock this afternoon from Chicago in Mr. Craig's private car on Illinois Central train No. 1 and were met by a local reception committee. After a short stay in this city they were taken by automobile to the scene of the dedication. Gov. Horner joined Mr. Craig and Mr. Barrett in Chicago this morning upon his arrival from New York, where he attended a political conference Wednesday.

### Wreath on Graves.

During the ceremonies this afternoon the members of the Kiwanis Club of Charleston placed a floral wreath on the graves of Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln in Shiloh cemetery, which is not far distant from the park.

Benjamin Weir of Charleston, publisher of the Charleston Courier, presided over the dedication program as chairman. He introduced the speakers after a short introductory speech. The speaking program was preceded by a band concert. Rev. Horace Batchelor of Mattoon gave the invocation.

### Address of Chairman Weir.

In his introductory speech, Mr. Weir said:

"We hear much of the character and life of Thomas Lincoln. Most of it is not always complimentary to him. But I wonder if we do not often lose our perspective when we appraise his life and all too greatly emphasize his weaknesses.

"We should remember that he was the product of a past century and a pioneer who was buffeted by hardships of which we know little or nothing.

"Records indicate he was a man of some means and standing in Kentucky who became discouraged by the absolute lack of security in land titles, and largely because of that moved to Indiana, where for 14 years he struggled to make a home and a living for his family. There he lost his wife—Abraham Lincoln's mother—in October, 1818, when the young Lincoln was somewhat less than ten years of age. About 14 months later Thomas Lincoln returned to Kentucky and married Sarah Bush Johnson.

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# LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor.  
Published each week by The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

No. 386

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

August 31, 1936

## LINCOLN LOG CABIN STATE PARK

The dedication of another Lincoln park in Illinois under the supervision of the State of Illinois, and the United States Department of the Interior National Park Service will be of interest to Lincoln students. This new state park is the old home site of Abraham Lincoln's father and here both Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln passed away. It is situated eight miles southwest of Charleston, Illinois, and will be known as "The Lincoln Log Cabin State Park."

### Family Land Holdings

Just about the time Abraham Lincoln took up his permanent residence in Springfield, Illinois, his stepbrother, John D. Johnston, entered a tract of land in Goose Nest Prairie country, located in Coles County, Illinois. This section was called Goose Nest because the cleared space in the timber resembled a goose nest of immense proportions. Section 21, in Township 11, Range 9, fell within this area and a diagram on this page shows the tracts once in possession of both Thomas Lincoln and his son, Abraham.

Tract No. 3 was acquired by Johnston on August 4, 1837, and contained forty acres. Tracts No. 1 and No. 2 were purchased by Thomas Lincoln from Ruben and Mary Moore on March 5, 1840, at a cost of \$400.00, and comprised eighty acres. On December 31, 1840, through a quit claim deed with a money consideration of but \$50 Johnston disposed of Tract No. 3 to Thomas Lincoln. Tracts Nos. 1, 2, and 3, comprising 120 acres, were at this time all in Thomas Lincoln's name.

Just what part Abraham Lincoln had in financing his father's land enterprises previous to October 24, 1841, we do not know, but on that date he paid Thomas Lincoln and Sarah, his wife, \$200 cash for Tract No. 3 "reserving the use and control of said land to the grantors and to the survivors of them during both and each of their natural lives." He also signed a bond at this time agreeing to sell the property to John D. Johnston for \$200 any time within one year after the death of Thomas Lincoln and wife.

While Lincoln was in Congress in 1848, the day before Christmas he sent his father \$20, which had been requested by Thomas Lincoln to pay a judgment against his property, and "save it from being sold."

The death of Thomas Lincoln occurred on Jan. 17, 1851. On August 12 of the same year Abraham Lincoln and Mary, his wife, deeded to John D. Johnston for the consideration of \$1.00 all their interest in Tracts Nos. 1 and 2, "subject to the dower interest of Sarah Lincoln, widow of Thomas Lincoln, deceased." Abraham Lincoln's interest in the tract was derived as sole heir to Thomas Lincoln. It will be noted that now Abraham held some claim to all three tracts.

Four months later John D. Johnston and wife, Nancy, sold their claim in this same 80 acres (Tracts 1 and 2), which he had acquired from Abraham Lincoln, to John J. Hall for \$250. Hall was the son of Matilda Johnston Hall and a grandson of Sarah Johnston Lincoln.



Thomas Lincoln Land Surveys

The east forty acres (Tract 3) which Abraham Lincoln acquired was in his possession at the time of his death and his heirs never claimed it. John J. Hall, however, after the death of Sarah Lincoln in 1869 cultivated this forty acres and on May 7, 1888, because of undisputed possession for more than twenty years, acquired a legal title to the land. In May, 1891, John J. Hall sold to James W. Craig of Mattoon, Illinois, a certain tract of land and a cabin which stood on it.

### Abraham Lincoln Log Cabin Association Transactions

The first land transaction which looked forward to the acquisition of the Lincoln farm as a memorial occurred in 1891 when John J. Hall sold a small irregular piece of land to the Abraham Lincoln Log Cabin Association.

The deed specifies that the approximate one-third of an acre was conveyed as "Memorial grounds on which the Lincoln cabin stood." The deed was dated August 15, 1891. The consideration was \$200, and the grantees guaranteed to keep the place fenced. Five months after acquiring this cabin site the association paid \$10,000 for the log cabin and land Craig had

purchased from Hall. The association sold the tract of land it had acquired from Hall to M. E. Dunlap for \$1,000 on February 24, 1892, but took the cabin to Chicago.

The cabin was exhibited in connection with the World's Fair at Chicago. Later it was stored in the yard of the Libby Prison War Museum on Wabash Avenue. Several years later an advertisement in the Chicago Tribune called upon the owners to claim possession or it would be sold for storage charges. It was about this time evidently that the *Washington Post* reproduced a picture of the Coles County cabin with this information: "The Lincoln log cabin is now in Chicago, but it is the question of but a short while before it will be brought on and erected in Washington." This project, however, never materialized, and there is evidence that most of the cabin was used for fire wood.

### Acquisition by State

The Chambers of Commerce in the cities of Charleston and Mattoon in 1928 acquired by purchase at an administrator's sale the west thirty-four acres, a part of Tract 1, and about this time an option of thirty-four acres just east of the land already acquired was secured.

In June, 1929, arrangements were made by the State of Illinois for taking over the land acquired by the Chambers of Commerce and also for acquiring the thirty-four acres in possession of Mr. and Mrs. William Phipps. The eighteen acres in possession of John D. Martin, however, where the cabin is said to have stood, was the most desired tract to be secured, and it finally came into possession of the state.

A replica of the log cabin which originally stood at a point marked x on Tract 2 has been constructed.

...altar control point.

## LOG CABIN STATE PARK

*Lincoln (Ill.) Evening Courier*

### VISITORS INCREASE

Jan. 23, 1940

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — A sixty-seven per cent increase in visitors was recorded during 1939 at Lincoln Log Cabin State Park, Coles county, where the State has reconstructed the final home of the elder Lincolns in Illinois.

The 1939 park register which contains 50,316 names, shows that visitors were present from Alaska, Hawaii, Cuba, Canada, Africa, Norway, Sweden, Ireland, England, China, and from every state in the Union.

The park is now accessible on an all-weather highway completed this fall which also provides connections with the Moore Home, where Lincoln visited his sister and stepmother before leaving for his in-

LINCOLN LOG CABIN

STATE PARK



STATE OF ILLINOIS

*Dwight W. Green*  
GOVERNOR

Journal Gazette Times-Courier

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## Lincoln Log Harvest Frolic will spotlight 1840s agricultural fair

**By the JG/T-C**[editorial@jg-tc.com](mailto:editorial@jg-tc.com)

LERNA — An 1840s Agricultural Fair will be one of the highlights this weekend at the annual Harvest Frolic at Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site.

The Harvest Frolic and Agricultural Fair will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

The event is free and open to the public, and features free parking.

Harvest Frolic activities taking place at the Lincoln and Sargent farms both days include period cooking, applesauce making, food drying and preservation, quilting, grist milling, period music, and numerous hands-on activities such as doll making and quilt block sewing.

Visitors may also take part in period games and activities such as wool carding, rail splitting, and other activities, including a pie-eating contest each day.

An 1840s Agricultural Fair will also be held at the Sargent Farm featuring period crops, garden vegetables, seeds, domestic goods, livestock, and agricultural implements. The Sargent Farm will also feature a contest for the best of 1845 butter, cheese, and baked goods judged to 19th century agricultural fair standards.

The Agricultural Fair features period trades and craftspeople demonstrating their wares in the area across from the visitor center.

These will include blacksmithing, pottery, woodcarving, paper cutting (Scherenschnitte), weaving, broom making, and wood turning on the "Great Wheel." Many of the trades and crafts people will be selling their wares.

The site's gift shop will also be open, and the event will be the last chance to get tickets for the 2007 Volunteer Pioneer Quilt Raffle before the winner's name is drawn on Sunday.

Entertainment this year includes an 1840s magician, Punch & Judy Puppet Shows, and returning musicians Paul and Kim Caudell from Nashville, Tenn. Horse-drawn tram rides around the park will also be available both days.

New this year, Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. the Rev. Thomas Goodman, a 19th century circuit rider, will be portrayed holding his Sunday service on the stage in the trades area. The Volunteer Pioneers will serve ham and beans, cornbread and other appropriate fare. Other vendors will offer kettle carmel corn, root beer and other period foods.

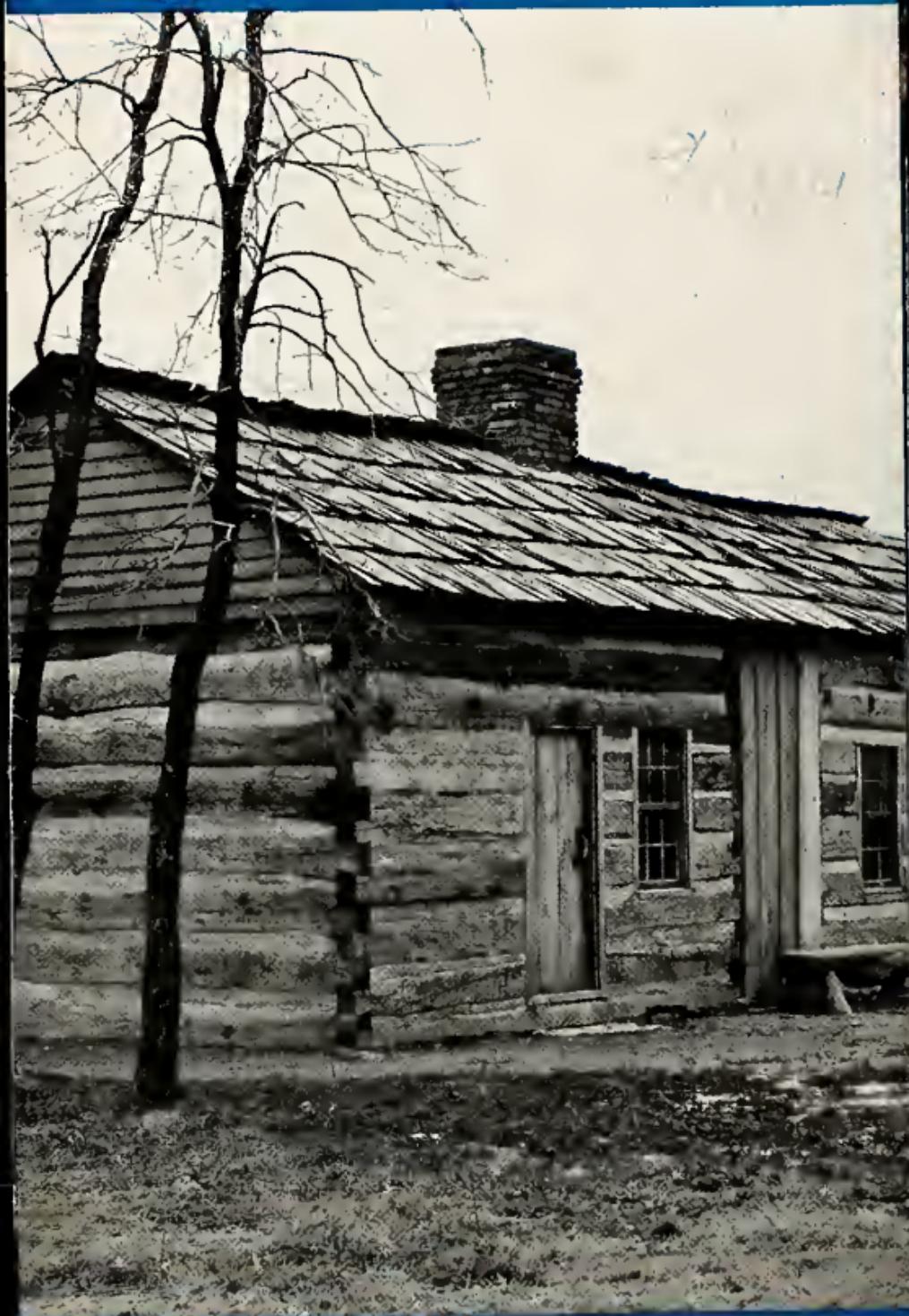
Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site, administered by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, is an 86-acre pioneer farmstead that was the last home of Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln's father and stepmother. For more information, call 345-1845 or visit [www.lincolnlogcabin.org](http://www.lincolnlogcabin.org).

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[Print Page](#)

# LINCOLN LOG CABIN STATE PARK



STATE OF ILLINOIS

*Dwight T. Green*  
GOVERNOR

# Lincoln Log Cabin State Park

Another of the ties that binds the memory of Lincoln closely to the people of Illinois is Lincoln Log Cabin State Park south of Charleston in Coles County. Here Thomas Lincoln and his wife, Sarah Bush Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln's father and stepmother, spent their last years.

The cabin which originally housed the Lincolns was sent to the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1892 and was to have been returned to Coles County for reassembly after the Fair. Instead it mysteriously disappeared. When the State, after acquiring the site in 1928, set about reconstructing it, great care was used to locate its exact position and to duplicate from existing photographs and affidavits of old settlers all its original details. A pole barn stands nearby, and an ash-hopper for making lye, long wedges for splitting rails, an ox-yoke and a grindstone have been added.

Hardship and suffering attended the Lincoln family prior to their settling in Coles County. Thomas Lincoln, carpenter and farmer, met with indifferent success in his attempts to earn a living in Kentucky and Indiana. He moved frequently but invariably encountered failure, poverty, and debt. In Indiana his wife, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, and their daughter, Sarah, died during a typhoid epidemic. Thomas Lincoln remarried, lived another few years in Indiana and finally at the instigation of John Hanks, sold his holdings and set out for Illinois and a fresh start.

The ill luck which had dogged Thomas Lincoln and his kin, however, followed them in 1830 to their first Illinois home southwest of Decatur. After a miserable winter, marooned in a crude cabin by six feet of snow, Tom Lincoln, disgusted with Illinois, started back to Indiana in the early spring of 1831. En route, he stopped in Coles County where he was persuaded to settle at Buck Grove eight miles northwest of the present State Park and give Illinois another chance. Meanwhile, Abraham, now twenty-one, easy-going, "backwoods" and studious, had departed with his half-brother, John D. Johnston, John Hanks, and Denton Offutt, their employer, on a trading trip to New Orleans.

Back in St. Louis some weeks later, Lincoln walked to Edwardsville and thence to Buck Grove for a visit with his parents. It was during this brief sojourn that Lincoln, at nearby Wabash Point, wrestled and threw Dan Needham, the bully of Cumberland County. A short time later he set off on foot, his head and shoulders showing above the tall grass, for New Salem and a job in Denton Offutt's store.

Thomas Lincoln, ever restive, moved in 1834 to a farm a half mile southeast of Lerna, and then again in 1837

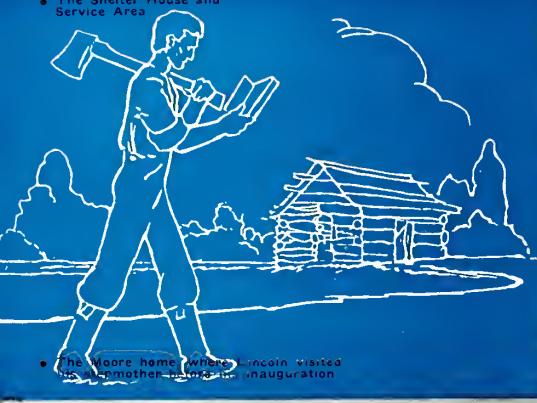


• The Lincoln log cabin

to Goose Nest Prairie, site of the present State Park. Things here progressed not so very well, and on several occasions he called on his son for help. Lincoln always responded and in 1841, eased his parents' distress by paying them \$200 for the east 40 acres, allowing them to retain a life estate. After Thomas Lincoln's death in 1851, Lincoln refused to sell his interest, retaining it for the use of his stepmother. John J. Hall, who had purchased the west eighty, acquired title to the remainder in 1888 by reason of 20 years of undisputed possession. Mrs. Lincoln remained on the farm until her death in 1869.

Near the site of the cabin in the former village of Farmington is the Moore Home owned by the State, where Lincoln ate his last meal with his stepmother and her daughter who were visiting there before leaving for his inauguration in Washington in 1861. A mile and one-half northeast of the 86 acre plot on which the cabin is located is Fox Ridge State Park, presented to the State in 1936 by the people of Charleston. The old Shiloh Cemetery where Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln are buried is also in this vicinity, three miles northwest of the cabin. This cemetery, in 1935, was renamed by its trustees and is now known as the Thomas Lincoln Cemetery.

• The Shelter House and Service Area



• The Moore home where Lincoln visited his stepmother before the inauguration



Lincoln  
1771-1865 1809-1865  
2nd and 3rd terms  
of our nation

Write to the Department of Public Works and Buildings, Division of Parks and Memorials, State Capitol, Springfield, for further information concerning Illinois Parks and Memorials.

Forty State parks, 25 of historic interest, are of easy access from every part of the State. Lodges and cabins are an important feature of Starved Rock, Pere Marquette, White Pines Forest and Giant City State Parks. Reservations should be made with loune managers.

This is the belt with him —  
me to the road  
break him in to

Issued by  
Department of Public Works and Buildings  
Walter A. Rosenfield, Director  
DIVISION OF PARKS  
George W. Williams, Superintendent

